

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting a plurality of items of color-component  
5 data representing an image;

deciding a plurality of items of output color-  
component data, which represent an image reproduced by  
an output device, based upon the plurality of items of  
color-component data; and

10 outputting the plurality of items of output  
color-component data decided at said deciding step;

wherein in case of an image in a specific area in  
which an entered image is represented by at least two  
items of color-component data, any one item of color-  
15 component data is decided as output color-component  
data at said deciding step.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the two  
items of color-component data are cyan and magenta  
color-component data, and the specific area is a high-  
20 contrast area.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
deciding step includes the steps of:

adding error data to the plurality of items of  
color-component data and adopting the sum as error  
25 correction data;

deciding the plurality of items of output color-component data based upon the error correction data;  
and

calculating the difference between the plurality  
5 of output color-component items decided and the error  
correction data and adopting the difference as the  
error data.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the  
plurality of items of output color-component data are  
10 decided based upon quality of printing required.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the  
plurality of items of output color-component data are  
decided based upon characteristics of printing media.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the  
15 plurality of items of output color-component data are  
decided based upon impact precision of an output dot  
pattern.

7. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a plurality of items of  
20 color-component data representing an image;

deciding means for deciding a plurality of items  
of output color-component data, which represent an  
image reproduced by an output device, based upon the  
plurality of items of color-component data; and

25 means for outputting the plurality of items of  
output color-component data decided by said deciding  
means;

wherein in case of an image in a specific area in which an entered image is represented by at least two items of color-component data, said deciding means decides any one item of color-component data as output  
5 color-component data.

8. A program for causing a computer of execute the image processing method set forth in claim 1.

9. a computer-readable recording medium on which the program set forth in claim 8 has been recorded.

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